

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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SSM-03 ACDA-07 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 /095 W

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R 151329Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 656

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 0853

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT EG

SUBJ: ASU FIRST SECRETARY ON POLITICAL PARTIES

SUMMARY.

ASU FIRST SECRETARY MUSTAFA KHALIL SAYS GOE HAS NO INTENTION OF PERMITTING MULTIPLICATION OF PARTIES DURING 5-YEAR TRANSITION PERIOD. HOWEVER, EXISTING THREE PARTIES WILL BE PERMITTED GREAT FREEDOM WITHIN SYSTEM OF CHECKS. ASU WILL NOT BE DISSOLVED BUT WILL NO LONGER HAVE BRANCHES OUTSIDE CAIRO. ITS FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL WILL BE AVAILABLE TO POLITICAL PARTIES. ASU FIRST SECRETARY AND GENERAL COMMITTEE WILL PLAY KEY ROLES IN PROTECTING "BUDDING DEMOCRACY". AMONG EXISTING OPPOSITION POLITICAL TENDENCIES MOST POPULAR IS ISLAMIC RIGHT, WHICH SAUDIS SEEK TO PROMOTE AS BEST DEFENSE AGAINST LEFTISTS. GOE HAS PLAN TO REDUCE APPEAL OF RADICAL ISLAMIC RIGHT TO STUDENTS AND YOUTH. COMMENT BY SEPTTEL. END SUMMARY.

1. FIRST SECRETARY OF ASU DR. MUSTAFA KHALIL GAVE FOLLOWING
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ASSESSMENT OF RECENT CREATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN EGYPT TO CHARGE AND POLCOUNS DURING THEIR CALL AT ASU HEADQUARTERS JANUARY 13:

2. FUTURE ROLE OF PARTIES. EGYPT IS NOT MOVING TOWARDS MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM SUCH AS EXISTED IN THE 1940'S. LEADERSHIP IS AGAINST FRAGMENTATION THAT SUCH SYSTEM WOULD BRING AND AGAINST

ROLE FOR COMMUNIST PARTY OR IKHWAN OR ANY OTHER RELIGIOUS PARTY. THEREFORE, BILL ON POLITICAL PARTIES NOW BEING DISCUSSED IN PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY IS DESIGNED TO PROTECT EGYPT'S "BUDDING DEMOCRACY" BY A SYSTEM OF CHECKS. NEW POLITICAL PARTIES WILL BE PERMITTED PROVIDED THEY BASED ON THREE PRINCIPLES: (A) NATIONAL UNITY (TO EXCLUDE RELIGIOUS PARTIES THAT WOULD CAUSE DIVISIVENESS BETWEEN MUSLIM AND CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES); (B) PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS. (I.E. REJECTION OF MARXIST CLASS STRUGGLE); AND (C) ALLIANCE OF ALL WORKING PEOPLE WITHIN ASU FRAMEWORK.

2. ANY GROUP CAN FORM NEW POLITICAL PARTY IF IT ACCEPTS THESE PRINCIPLES AND "ADHERES TO SOCIALIST SYSTEM." (DESPITE THIS "PRIVATE SECTOR WILL BE GIVEN FREEDOM TO OPERATE." HOWEVER, DURING FIVE-YEAR TRANSITION PERIOD ONLY MEMBERS OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY WILL BE PERMITTED TO FORM NEW PARTIES. GROUP MUST COMPRISE AT LEAST 10 MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND PRESENT PLATFORM THAT DIFFERS FROM THOSE OF EXISTING THREE PARTIES IN APPLICATION TO ASU FIRST SECRETARY. IF APPLICATION REFUSED, APPEAL TO COURTS WILL BE POSSIBLE.

3. EGYPT NEEDS CHECKS ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY SUCH AS EXIST IN NEW BILL. ONE CHECK IS THAT EXISTING PARTIES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO HAVE OFFICES IN UNIVERSITIES, FACTORIES OR OTHER PLACES OF OCCUPATION. "WE DON'T WANT POLITICAL STRUGGLE TO DISRUPT PRODUCTION." OTHER CHECKS ARE THAT PARTIES ARE PROHIBITED FROM BEING BRANCH OF OR HAVING ALLIANCE WITH ANY FOREIGN POLITICAL PARTY OR HAVING BRANCHES ABROAD. ALL FOREIGN CONTACTS OF THE PARTIES WILL BE CONDUCTED THROUGH ASU FIRST SECRETARY. ALSO NO FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE

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MADE TO THE PARTIES FROM FOREIGN SOURCES OR EGYPTIAN COMPANIES OR INSTITUTIONS. ONLY INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF MINIMAL AMOUNT WILL BE PERMITTED. THREE PARTIES WILL, HOWEVER, HAVE EVERY FREEDOM AND ASU WILL PROVIDE THEM WITH TRANSPORT, OFFICE SPACE AND HELP THEM FINANCE THEIR OWN NEWSPAPERS.

4. FUTURE OF ASU. ASU WILL NOT BE DISSOLVED BECAUSE IT STILL HAS IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY. FURTHERMORE, ARAB SOCIALIST UNIONS EXIST IN THE SUDAN, LIBYA AND ELSEWHERE AND, IN MINDS OF WORKING CLASSES, ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR PRIVILEGES AND GAINS AND CANNOT BE DISSOLVED. ASU WILL, HOWEVER, NO LONGER HAVE ANY BRANCHES OUTSIDE OF CAIRO. IN ASU CAIRO HEADQUARTERS THERE WILL BE OFFICES FOR FARMERS COOPERATIVES, WHICH REPRESENT EGYPT'S 4400 VILLAGES, FOR TRADE UNIONS, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS MOST OF WHOM TOOK DECISION NOT TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY. PRESENT ASU BUDGET IS ABOUT L.E. 1 MILLION. IT HAS POLITICAL STAFF OF 800 AND CLERICAL STAFF OF 1200, ALL OF WHOM WILL BE DISMISSED EXCEPT THOSE WHO REMAIN IN HEADQUARTERS. THEY WILL BE

AVAILABLE TO WORK FOR THE PARTIES. ALL ASU BRANCH OFFICES AND FACILITIES WILL BE TURNED OVER TO THE PARTIES.

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5. CURRENT ASSEMBLY. INDEPENDENTS IN ASSEMBLY ARE BADLY DIVIDED AMONG COMMUNISTS, NASSERISTS, IKHWAN AND THOSE SEEKING PERSONAL FOLLOWING. ONLY THIN THAT UNITES THEM IS OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, FORMER RCC MEMBER KAMAL AD-DIN HUSAYN IS TRYING TO FORM A GROUP DISTINCT FROM NASSERISTS LED BY KAMAL AHAMAD. HILMY MURAD MERELY WANTS TO BE LEADER WITH PERSONAL FOLLOWING. THE CENTER IS NOT WELL ORGANIZED (WHICH IS TRUE) AND WRONGLY GIVES IMPRESSION THAT IT IS PARTY OF THE GOVERNMENT (SIC). CENTER SECRETARY GENERAL ABU WAFIYA IS NOT UP TO THE JOB AND IS OBJECT OF MUCH CRITICISM, INCLUDING THAT HE IS SECGEN ONLY BECUASE OF HIS FAMILY CONNECTIONS (ABU WAFIYA IS MARRIED TO MRS. SADAT'S SISTER). ELWI AL-HAFIZ, IN CRITIZING NASSER AND CALLING FOR END OF PAYMENTS TO NASSER'S FAMILY, " SPOKE OUT OF HIS HEAD" (I.E. WAS CRAZY). THIS WAS FOR PERSONAL REVENGE BECUASE NASSER HAD EXPELLED HIM FROM ASSEMBLY. SUCH ACTS ARE NOT HELPFUL TO DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY AND JUSTIFY SYSTEM OF CHECKS.

6. RIGHTISTS. MUSTAFA KAMAL MURAD DOES NOT REPRESENT THE REAL RIGHT AND IS IN FACT CLOSE TO THE CENTER. REAL RIGHT IS REPRESENTED BY THE IKHWAN AND HAS ITS ROOTS AND APPEAL THROUGHOUT
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THE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY AMONG STUDENTS, ILLITERATES AND IN THE VILLAGES. COMMUNIST APPEAL IS PRETTY MUCH LIMITED TO WORKERS.

7. IKHWAN. DURING PAST YEAR THERE HAS BEEN MARKED RESURGENCE OF RELIGIOUS SENTIMENT AND APPEAL OF IKHWAN HAS INCREASED PARTLY BECUASE OF ELECTIONS AND PUBLIC CONFLICT WHICH TOOK PLACE BETWEEN SHAYKH OF AL-AZHAR DR. ABD AL-HALIM MAHMUD AND MARXIST PUBLISHER OF ROSE AL-YUSUF ABD AL-RAHMAN SHARQAWI. SHAYKH OF AL-AZHAR HAD GONE TOO FAR: "HE IS NOT TOLERAT AND CONSIDERS ALL COMMUNISTS AS HERETICS" (COMMENT: SHARQAWI, FOR EXAMPLE, IS DEVOUT MUSLIM). ONLY 10-15 PERCENT OF EGYPTIAN "COMMUNISTS" ARE IDELOGICW (SOVIET ORIENTED) COMMUNISTS. SHAYKH HAD RAISED EMOTIONS AMONG THE PEOPLE AGAINST ALL LEFTISTS. EGYPT NEEDS FARSIGHTED POLITICAL THINKING, NOT INTOLERANCE. THE MAIN DEMAND OF THE IKHWAN IS TO MAKE THE SHARI'A THE SOLE SOURCE OF LEGISLATION WHEREAS EXISTING PARTIES (AND THE CONSTITUTION) SAY TI SHOULD BE ONE OF SOURCES. IKHWAN HAS VERY STRONG SUPPORT AMONG THE PEOPLE. THEY ARE PARTICULARLY OPPOSED TO CORRUPTION, PORNOGRAPH-IC MOVIES AND ANYTHING THEY VIEW AS DECADENT. THEY MAKE COMPARISONS BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT TO EGYPT' DETRIMENT. THIS HAS GREAT ATTRACTION TO YOUNG PEOPLE. THE INFLUENCE OF SAUDI ARABIA IN THIS MOVEMENT IN EGYPT IS VERY STONG. EVERYONE AT AL-AZHAR DOES NOT SHARE THESE CONSERVATIVE BELIEFS. THERE ARE SOME VERY ENLIGHTENED PEOPLE THRE. THE SAUDIS BOTH AT HOME AND ABORAD ARE FIGHTING THE LEFT WITH RELIGION WHICH IS UNREALISTIC AND "VERY DANGEROUS"; GOE LEADERSHIP IS VERY MUCH AWARE OF THE PROBLEM AND HAS A PLAN TO REDUCE IKHWAN INFULENCE, PARTICULARLY AMONG STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

8. NATIONAL FRONT. THE ADVOCATES OF A NATIONAL FRONT ARE THE LEFTIST AND HILMY MURAD. THEY WOULD ALSO LIKE TO DISSOLVE THE ASU AND DEMAND THAT RESOLUTIONS OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL FRONT WOULD NOT BE BINDING ON THE PARTIES. (UNDER PENDING LEGISLATION RESOLUTIONS OF ASU CENTRAL COMMITTEE WOULD BE BINDING ON THE PARTIES.) IN ANY CASE, GOE WOULD NOT ACCEPT NATIONAL FRONT.

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9. FOURTH PARTY. IT IS POSSIBLE DURING NEXT FIVE YEARS THAT A FOURTH PARTY COULD BE ESTABLISHED BY INDEPENDENTS. HOWEVER, THEY MUST APPLY AND PRESENT A PROGRAM THAT IS DIFFERENT FROM THE EXISTING THREE PARTIES.

10. COMMENT FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL.
MATTHEWS

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